


The BUZZER

Susquehanna Beekeepers' Association

Serving Bradford, Lackawanna, Luzerne, Susquehanna & Wyoming Counties, Pennsylvania

Volume 19 Number 2

May 2013



Thanks to Bee Culture Magazine

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SCHEDULE - 2013

- May 11 Field Day
James Wood Apiary 1 PM
- June 1 Check Split Hive - Wood Apiary
- June 14 Apiary Byproducts
Claverack 7 PM
- July 27 Harford Fair Work / Picnic 9 AM
(Aug 1 Honey Show Entry Deadline)
- Aug 18-24 Harford Fair
- Sept 13 Wax Processing Methods
Claverack 7PM
- Sept 28 Combined Meeting with So. Tier
Luncheon / Speaker
Chenango Town Hall
- Oct 11 Planning Meeting - Jas. Wood Home
- Nov 2 Annual Dinner / Election / Speaker
Landi Simone
EAS Master Beekeeper
100-150 colonies in Morris Co., NJ
Past Pres., Essex Co. Beekeepers
S. Montrose Community Church 6 PM
- Dec 13 State Meeting Recap - Claverack 7 PM
- CONFERENCES**
- Aug 5-9 Eastern Apicultural Soc. Short Course &
Conference - Westchester College
- Nov 8-9 PA State Beekeepers Meeting
Country Cupboard, Lewisburg

At our April meeting, we were challenged to be brave, enter the annual honey show competition, and show the public that we are alive and dedicated to our profession as beekeepers!

We were given help on how and why. There were hints and trade secrets shared.

So now is the time to begin planning. First, decide what you will enter. Second, plan your strategy. Third, put August 1st on your calendar -- the deadline for sending in your entrance form.

Your judges are eager to help you. Call Dick or Jim if you need help! And don't forget that our association is offering free one pound classic jars for any member entering extracted honey.

Check out:

Southern Tier Beekeepers Assoc.....
www.southern-tier-beekeepers.org/

PA State Beekeepers Assoc....
<http://www.pastatebeekeepers.org/>

Eastern Apicultural Soc.
<http://www.easternapiculture.org/>

Penn State Beekeeping 101 course....
<http://beekeeping101.psu.edu/>

Mid-Atlantic Beekeeping Extension help (free).....
<http://agdev.anr.udel.edu/maarec/>

Long Lane Bee Farms - Lessons (free) & Sales.....
<http://www.honeybeesonline.com/index.html>

SBA Meeting 3-8-13
Claverack Bldg. (Montrose)
(35 People in attendance)



James Wood, President - conducted the meeting and began with the Pledge of Allegiance

Secretary report: Kandy Taylor read minutes from 2-7-13 meeting

Treasure report: Read by Ginny Wood - \$8,657.93 balance as of 2-4-13

Old Business:

Richard Chapin - Proposed purchase of boy mannequin for use in Honey Hut at the Harford Fair. Prices discussed from Brushy Mtn. and Mann Lake. Motion: Earl Villecco; 2nd: Richard Sheldon

Discussion: Richard Chapin and Ginny Wood will meet to review pricing; E-bay and Dadant recommended as alternative options; to be used for school programs
Voted and approved.

Richard Chapin - next month's meeting - discussion of Harford Fair entries - more people are encouraged to enter - will demonstrate how to fill jars, create a block of wax, etc.

Earl Villecco: Combined dinner with Southern Tier Beekeepers - September 28th - potluck lunch @ Chenango Town Hall, Upper Front St.; Jennifer Berry speaker @ 2pm. Committees for set-up and tear-down will be created.

Ginny Wood: PA State Beekeepers Conference in Lewisburg - November 8th and 9th - SBA members who have not attended in the past can be reimbursed for \$20 entry and \$25 banquet cost - Jane Robinson will reimburse. Those attending are asked to share their experiences at the December meeting.

New Business:

Kandy Taylor - Penn State University invited SBA to participate in the agricultural election of Trustees - more info. to be provided at the April meeting (3 ballots given)

James Wood - "Natural Beekeeping Handbook" for sale

Ginny Wood - various handouts for 2013 meeting topics and various recipes available

Arlene Taiariol - to send get well card to Jim Barber - paper circulated for well wishes
Earl Villecco- bulk sugar sale with minimum order of 2,000 lbs. presented and fondant block of 50lbs. for \$22 - shared with SBA group - not enough interest at this time.

Presentations:

Aubrey Elbrecht - Comb honey set up using four Basswood boxes per frame; finished product fits into a quart Ziplock bag

Richard Sheldon - Comb honey set up for cut comb and information on creation of bait hives with a focus on the Cornell method

Jim Perkins - Shared about the repurposing of used deer stands for a bait hive support system

Closing Discussions:

Ginny Wood - stated that the SBA library, under the direction of Catherine Hynes, is listed on the website - www.susquehannabeekeeping.com

Ginny Wood - asked for hospitality volunteers for next month's meeting

Matt Purdy - tablet circulating for anyone interested in nucs and hive components

*Davia Adams,
Jerry & Junie Ely's
great granddaughter
and our youngest
beekeeper, wrote an
essay including
illustrations on honey
bees for her science
project and came in
3rd for her age at the
science fair held
recently at Elk Lake
School.*



SBA Meeting 4-12-13
Claverack Bldg. (Montrose)
(40 People in attendance)



PAGE 4

James Wood, President - began the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance
Secretary report: Kandy Taylor read minutes from 3-8-13 meeting
Treasure report: Read by Ginny Wood - \$8,657.93 balance as of 2-4-13

Old Business:

Richard Chapin - Ordered mannequin for the Haford Fair - to arrive Monday. Ginny Wood will get trousers and shoes from Salvation Army. A jacket with veil will be purchased for mannequin and can be used for school children to try on in the future. Sue Garing, President of Southern Tier Beekeepers Assoc. - described combined dinner for September 28th. Sign-up sheet for the event and for volunteers was circulated, suggestion that SBA members might be in charge of the raffle, due to coming from a farther distance. Jennifer Berry from Georgia to be the speaker. Richard Chapin introduced other Southern Tier Beekeepers in attendance.



Kandy Taylor - Explanation of why SBA will not participate in Penn State elections

Dave Taylor - "Taste of Country", Saturday, May 18th 9am - 3pm in Thompson, PA, flyer was circulated for this first time event featuring local products. Hosted by Pickering Farm, Home and Garden and sponsored by Purina Feed Mills. They are looking for apiary products. Discussion of individual sales.

New Business:

James Wood - Four packages including 3lbs of bees and a queen are available, \$90 each. Member showed interest in all four.

Ginny Wood - Question to membership if membership cards are wanted or not. Discussion - if Dadant or Brushy Mtn. would provide a discount with the card, then keep cards. Ginny will research.

Richard Chapin - Recommended the purchase of a new projection screen to accompany the laptop computer. Motion: Dick Chapin. 2nd: Ginny Wood. Discussion: Someone in membership may have one to donate and/or some schools may want to donate unused ones from the past. Motion tabled at this time for research.

James Wood - SBA Items for sale: Hat \$10 and shirts \$20

Ginny Wood - Small jacket with veil attached - new for \$53

Dave Taylor - Website update: See Dave to be added to the swarm list.

Dick Chapin to coordinate with Dave to update the newsletter listing for bee removal from building, as well. Sue Garing suggested swarm list be given to local pest control services.

Next Meeting: May 11th at James Wood's apiary for hive splitting demonstration.

James Wood - SBA bought a case of glass jars for free use by SBA members to enter honey in the Fair.

Presentation:

Preparing apiary entries for the Harford Fair, presented by Richard Chapin and Jim Barber, fair judges

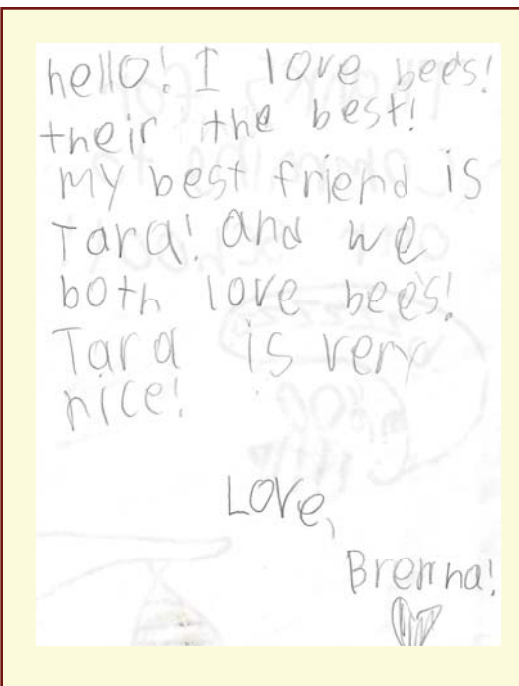
Videos shown about preparing honey to be judged and preparing wax to be judged, by Virginia Webb of www.Mtnhoney.com

Handouts provided: Judging guidelines and Department 23 Apiary products listing from the Harford Fair

John Brunner, SBA member is the judge for baking products made with honey

Closing Discussion:

Suggestion of creating a blog section for the SBA website and/or creating a Facebook page. You can like Southern Tier Beekeepers Assoc. on Facebook - access through their website.



Social Bees Mark Dangerous Flowers with Chemical Signals

From ABJ Extra News, March 13, 2013



The electric fields that build up on honey bees as they fly, flutter their wings, or rub body parts together may allow the insects to talk to each other, a new study suggests. Tests show that the electric fields, which can be quite strong, deflect the bees' antennae, which, in turn, provide signals to the brain through specialized organs at their bases.

Scientists already knew that some social bee species warn their conspecifics when detecting the presence of a predator near their hive, which in turn causes an attack response to the possible predator. Researchers at the University of Tours (France) in collaboration with the Experimental Station of Arid Zones of Almeria (Spain) have now demonstrated that they also use chemical signals to mark those flowers where they have previously been attacked.

Researchers at the University of Tours (France) and the Experimental Station of Arid Zones of Almeria (EEZA-CSIC) conducted an experiment to study whether bees are capable of using evasive chemical signals to mark those flowers where they have previously been attacked. For this purpose, they simulated a predator attack and observed whether the bees advised the rest of their conspecifics of the danger of gathering nectar at a certain plant.

"Evasive alarm pheromones provoke an escape response in insects that visit a particular flower and until now, we were not sure of the role that these pheromones played in social bees. Our results indicate that, unlike solitary bees, social bees use this type of alert system on flowers to warn their conspecifics of the presence of a nearby predator," as explained to SINC by Ana L. Llandres from the University of Tours and lead author of the study published in the *'Animal Behaviour'* journal. In order to determine whether social and solitary bees responded to these olfactory alarm signals, an experiment was performed using individuals from both types and from different countries: Australia, China, Spain and Singapore. In some plants the predator attack was simulated by trapping the bees with pincers whereas in other cases control plants were used in which no attack took place.

"Solitary bees responded similarly in the case of flowers that had been attacked by control predators and control flowers. However, social bees responded very differently," explains L. Llandres. "Despite approaching both types of flower, the probability of landing on control flowers was much higher." The scientists also detected that the probability of social bees rejecting flowers was much greater if a predator attack had been previously simulated.

This study supports the idea that the sociability of bees is linked to the evolution of warning signals.

References:

Ana L. Llandres, Francisco G. González, Miguel A. Rodríguez-Gironés. "Social but not solitary bees reject dangerous flowers where a conspecific has recently been attacked", *Animal Behaviour* 85: 97- 102, 2013.



Our School Program 2012-2013

Jim Barber, Dick Chapin & James Wood

- 10/16 Blue Ridge Elementary 2nd grade
- 10/19 Bradford Co. Field Day - Sayre
- 10/26 Bradford Co. Field Day - Wyalusing
- 11/13 Lathrop Street Elementary 4th grade
- 1/20 Lackawanna Trail Middle 5th grade
- 12/4 Carbondale Elementary 3rd grade
- 2/5 Roslund Elementary 4th grade
- 2/12 Evans Falls/Mill City 3rd/4th grade
- 2/19 Mehoopany Elementary 4th grade
- 2/26 Mill City/Evans Falls 3rd/4th grade
- 3/5 NE Bradford 3rd/4th grade
- 3/26 Susquehanna 3rd/4th grade
- 4/9 Epiphany, Sayre 3rd/4th/5th grade
- 4/16 Towanda Elementary 3rd/4th grade
- 4/19 Elk Lake Elementary 2nd grade
- 4/23 Choconut Valley 5th grade
- 4/30 Forest City 3rd grade
- 5/7 Mt. View 5th grade

Members interested in joining us as observer are welcome



FIELD DAYS

- 4/26 NE Bradford - James Wood & John Brunner
- 5/1 & 5/2 Wyoming County - Jim Barber, John Brunner & Dick Chapin
- 5/17 Sayre - Jim Barber & Dick Chapin
- 5/28 - Troy - James Wood & John Brunner

SWARM RETRIEVAL LIST
2013

COORDINATOR:

James Wood, 934-1166, Most Areas

Jim Barber 767-1312 Friendsville

Dick Chapin 432-4007 Bridgewater & New Milford Townships

John Fiore 836-5945 Tunkhannock

Dan Glezen, Jr. 879-4859 Hallstead & Great Bend

Fred Hotchkiss 553-2086 Choconut, Friendsville, Brackney & Binghamton

Catherine Hynes 942-0341, Nicholson

Earl Kelly 278-2961 , New Milford

Jim Perkins 967-2634, Franklin & Liberty Townships

Richard Sheldon 727-4429, Susquehanna

Removal of Bees
from Buildings

James Wood, 934-1166
Kevin Baker, 862-7494

MEASURING THE BUZZ IN THE HIVE

Honey bees may soon be able to communicate their poor health to beekeepers as a result of major new UK research project that aims to transform beekeeping....

The researchers have developed a hi-tech method of using accelerometers – devices sensitive to minute vibrations – to detect and translate the vibrations caused by bees during their activities and as they communicate with one another.

This means the researchers now can monitor when a hive is about to swarm and as a next step they are investigating changes and patterns in buzzing which may indicate specific health disorders, or deterioration in the hive.

They are developing methods to transfer wirelessly instant alerts to the beekeeper, either via email or SMS, so that they can intervene and manage their colonies....

Bee populations and beekeeper numbers in Europe have been falling at an alarming rate and honey imports to the EU, from countries such as Argentina and China, have risen by 20% since 2001....

“Action to bring modern management tools to beekeeping and action to halt the decline of the European beekeeping sector is urgently needed, particularly as bees play such a vital role in agricultural productivity. We now have the potential to achieve this.

“Our tool will allow us to remotely diagnose colony status without the need for systematic invasive opening of individual hives for inspection. Commercial beekeepers will be able to keep more hives over greater geographical distances, which will both increase their efficiency and profitability.”....

“For years we have been struggling to improve the health of our bees,” he says. “We know early intervention is crucial. This research could give us those vital, lifesaving early signs of problems allowing us to tend to our bees much sooner – giving us the equivalent of the golden hour in human first aid.”

-Alan Harman, “Measuring the Buzz in the Hive”,
selections from *Bee Culture*’s “Catch the Buzz” 6 March 2013



Dear Bee Keepers,
THANK
YOU!
for coming!
I got to
have honey
for the first
time!
-Erica

This would be the right time to begin planning your entry or entries for the Harford Fair.

You might want to think about any of the following:

Extracted honey, light, amber and/or dark
Light comb honey
Dark comb honey
Light round comb
Dark round comb
Finely crystallized
Honey spreads
Cut comb
Chunk honey
Frame honey

Beeswax

2# single piece
candles dipped
candles molded
candles fancy

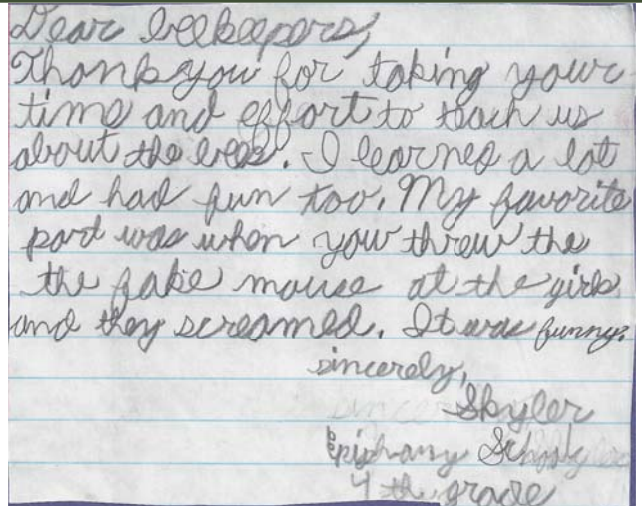
Collective exhibit

Robinson's Apiary

Bobby & Jack Robinson
Members of our Association

PO Box 1
Stevensville, PA
Spring Nucs & Pollination
ordered in advance

Honey, Honey Products
Pollen, Candles,
Gift Baskets, Beeswax
570-746-3235
robjw@epix.net



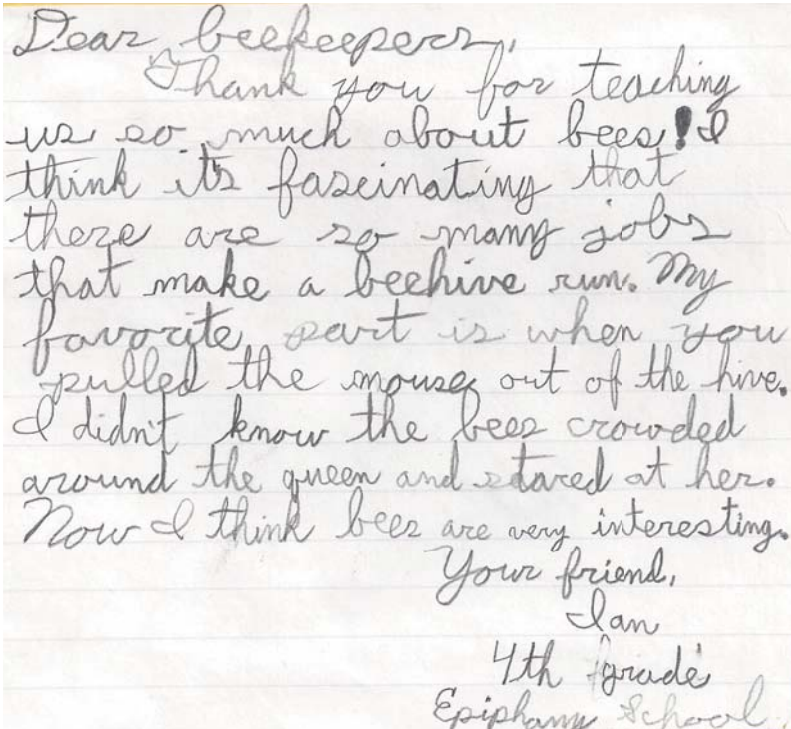
Dear Beekeepers,
Thank you for taking your
time and effort to teach us
about the bees. I learned a lot
and had fun too. My favorite
part was when you threw the
the fake mouse at the girls
and they screamed. It was funny.
Sincerely,
Skylee
Epiphany School
4th grade

Bee Culture Magazine

Box 706
Medina, OH 44258
800-289-7668
Or subscribe through our association
for a discount
Ginny at 570-934-1166

American Bee Journal

51 South 2nd St.
Hamilton, IL 62341
888-922-1293
<http://www.americanbeejournal.com>
Or subscribe through our
association
for a discount
Ginny at 570-934-1166
Also, ABJ has a free e-mail newsletter



Dear Beekeepers,
Thank you for teaching
us so much about bees! I
think it's fascinating that
there are so many jobs
that make a beehive run. My
favorite part is when you
pulled the mouse out of the hive.
I didn't know the bees crowded
around the queen and stared at her.
Now I think bees are very interesting.
Your friend,
Ian
4th grade
Epiphany School

Keeney and Ziegler

Dennis C. Keeney
9351 Old 22
Bethel, PA
Honey Producer / Packer
Supplies, Queens
Honey Jars & Caps
BREEDER of
NORTHERN QUEENS
717-933-8565
717-432-5088



Officers & Directors 2013

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934-1166 jimnginw@epix.net

Vice Pres. Dave Taylor

378-3728 drt105@aol.com

Recording Sec: Kandy Taylor

378-3728 taylor82404@aol.com

Financial Sec. Ginny Wood

934-1166 jimnginw@epix.net

Treasurer: Jane Robinson

746-3235

Directors:

James Barber, Past Pres.

767-1312 jbeekeeper@hotmail.com

John Brunner, Past Pres.

278-1774 elsejohnmolly@gmail.com

Richard Chapin, Past Pres.

432-4077 oldbeekeeper83@gmail.com

LeJune Ely

278-2170 jlely8@frontiernet.net

Aubrey Elbrecht

879-4733 aubrey.elbrecht@us.army.mil

Required by law if you have bees:

PA State Registration \$10.00 / 2

years

Bureau of Plant Industry – Apiary Section 2301 North
Cameron Street Harrisburg, PA 717-110-9408 Phone
717-772-5225 Fax

717-705-6518 forms at meetings or online: <http://>



MEMBERSHIP FORM

Local dues- \$10.00
(includes newsletter)

PA State Assn. dues - \$20:00
(Optional)
(includes state newsletter)

Name:

Address and Zip:

Tel. #

E-mail:

Payment Method:
() check or () money order
Check payable to
**Susquehanna Beekeepers
Association**

Send to Ginny Wood
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Montrose, PA 18801

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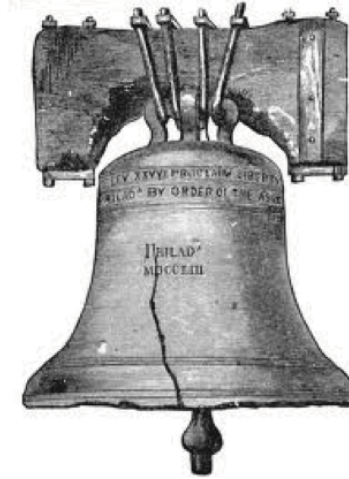
Dave Taylor, Webmaster

Check it out !





*“America will never be destroyed from the outside.
If we falter and lose our freedoms, it will be
because we destroyed ourselves.” — Abraham Lincoln*



FIELD DAY -- Saturday, May 11 at 1:00 PM See Schedule on PAGE 2